

happen several times in my District alone. Our local leaders know how much is needed to fix up their schools and libraries, and they rightly refuse to borrow more than necessary. By supporting this proposal, we are not only wisely utilizing limited federal funds, but we would be saving local taxpayers' money otherwise spent on inflated bond requests, fees, and other administrative costs associated with the for-profit market.

Specifically, SIBs will be created with federal seed money and offer a flexible menu of loan and credit enhancement assistance, terms, and maturities—all of which will allow communities to save local taxpayer dollars. As loans are repaid, the SIBs funds would be replenished and the banks could make new loans or loan guarantees to other school and library infrastructure projects.

Our children need to feel pride in their schools and libraries. It is my hope that my legislation is one of several first steps that can be made towards addressing this overwhelming issue of school and library construction. It is no secret that we need to educate our kids in a safe and supportive environment if we expect them to achieve in the 21st century.

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER MARK
M. LEARY

HON. BILL C.W. YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 1999

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding Naval Officer, Commander Mark Leary who has served with distinction for the past 3 years for the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Financial Management and Comptroller as a Principle Assistant and Deputy in the Appropriations Matters Office. It is a privilege for me to recognize his many outstanding achievements and commend him for the superb service he has provided to the Navy, the Congress, and our great Nation as a whole.

During his tenure in the Appropriations Matters Office, which began in January of 1996, Commander Leary has provided members of the House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Defense as well as our professional and personal staffs with timely and accurate support regarding Navy plans, programs and budget decisions. His valuable contributions have enabled the Subcommittee and the Department of the Navy to strengthen its close working relationship and to ensure the most modern, well trained and well equipped naval forces attainable for the defense of our great nation.

Mr. Speaker, Mark Leary and his wife Paula have made many sacrifices during his naval career and as they embark once again on that greatest adventure of a Naval Aviator's career, commander of a helicopter squadron, I call upon my colleagues to wish him every success as well as fair winds and following seas.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 694, NORTHPORT ON THE OCCASION OF 75 YEARS OF SPONSORSHIP BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA TROOP 41

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 1999

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pray tribute to the American Legion Post #694 of Northport, NY, for its continuous support for Boy Scout Troop #41. For the past 75 years the American Legion Post has sponsored this troop, making it the oldest sponsorship in New York State. Post 694's commitment to this troop and its membership over these many years symbolizes all that is truest in America; patriotism, loyalty and love of country.

All of the good deeds that men do, does in fact live after them. So that today, we salute the many members of the American Legion Post 694 who began and continued the sponsorship up until this present date. In a society that seeks great heroes and leaders, it is most commendable that the American Legion Post 694 has striven mightily to maintain this troop with honor and dignity, and to provide a positive role model.

On Sunday, May 2, 1999, when family, friends and members of the American Legion Post 694 and the Boy Scout Troop 41 gather to celebrate this outstanding accomplishment, let us all applaud this Herculean effort and achievement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to salute the members of the American Legion Post 694, past and present, in an acknowledgment of a deed well done.

EXPOSING RACISM

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 1999

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, in my continuing efforts to document and expose racism in America, I submit the following articles into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

TRUTH SOUGHT IN 1910 MOB KILLING OF BLACK MAN

By Todd Bensman

The Dallas Morning News (KRT) Dallas—The only memorial to Allen Brooks is a novelty picture postcard—made from a photograph and, for many years in an earlier time popularly mailed from Dallas.

In the photograph, snapped 89 years ago, a vast Dallas mob of 10,000, many of them children, stand shoulder to shoulder around Brooks, a black man.

He was lynched from a telephone pole in downtown Dallas. The execution is "one of the great tragedies ever to occur in Dallas," said local journalist and historian Darwin Payne. All that remains in the city's memory is an original postcard at the Dallas Public Library and a few old newspaper clippings.

Until now, the event in March 1910 has not been publicly viewed as worthy of investigation or academic reflection.

But that would change if some scholars and city officials have their way.

They say the city of Dallas should commission a study to investigate the incident if only because Brooks' guilt is doubtful and no mob leaders were ever held responsible. The 68-year-old Dallas man was to have stood trial on never-proved charges of molesting a white 3-year-old girl.

"It's not in the nature of Dallas historians to do research on that sort of topic," said Bill Farmer, a historian and professor emeritus of theology at Southern Methodist University. "That's true of Southern regions in general and the tendency to bemoan bad things that happened but then to forget them. And Dallas has a particularly bad case of this."

"But I think there is a readiness now. I think the time is right."

Kenneth Hamilton, a professor of history at SMU, points to recent efforts to unearth the truth about long-buried cases of killings of blacks, such as massacres in Rosewood, Fla., and Forsyth, Ga., and the Tulsa, Okla., race riots. In Tulsa, a city commission is reconstructing the 1921 melee set off by a rape charge against a black man. Local blacks want reparations.

"We don't have an urban historian on campus who does Dallas history. There's no conspiracy; we just have people whose interests lay elsewhere, and that's not unusual," said Dr. Hamilton of SMU, who is black. "Blacks were not important to Dallas until recently. So if it's important to Dallas, then Dallas can commission someone to do it."

As the State and Nation cope with the modern-day trial in Jasper, TX, of a white supremacist convicted of dragging a black man to death, historians recall an earlier time of such acts.

Small-town Texas contributed to the annals of Southern mob lynchings from post-slavery Reconstruction through the 1920's and 1930's.

But few such incidents anywhere were as urban, well-attended or festive as the mob killing of Brooks in downtown Dallas, historians say.

The only thing that anyone knows for certain is that Brooks never got his day in a big-city court.

According to newspaper accounts, Brooks was found in a barn with Mary Ethel Huven, a 3-year-old who had been missing. He was accused of molesting her and arrested in late February 1910.

Authorities, correctly reading public sentiment, anticipated a lynch-minded mob. They hid Brooks for a week before his scheduled trial. A mob that did form outside the city jail disbanded only after a delegation toured the facility and left satisfied that Brooks was not inside.

But according to eyewitness accounts, the vigilantes knew they would find Brooks a week later at his trial in the Dallas County Courthouse.

Overwhelming more than 70 peace officers, they broke into Judge Robert Sealey's second-floor courtroom, nabbed Brooks and tied a rope around his neck. The other end was thrown to the crowd below. A struggling Brooks was pushed and pulled through the window.

It is thought that he died from the fall. But their fury unassuaged, the crowd dragged his body and hung him up on a telephone pole near an arch erected for an Elks convention. Moments later, witnesses say, people tore his clothing and the rope to shreds for souvenirs.

Judge Sealey ordered a grand jury investigation that proved inconclusive after police officers swore they recognized no one in the crowd.

The incident, one of the hundreds that occurred all over the South during the period, made headlines and was quickly forgotten.